



Request for Proposals: Host NACTO’s 2026 Designing Cities Conference

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) is selecting a member city to host our annual Designing Cities Conference in **May 2026!**

The annual NACTO [Designing Cities Conference](#) brings together over 1,000 people passionate about advancing the state of transportation in North American cities—engineers, planners, government agency leaders, elected officials, advocates, and other transportation professionals of all career levels. Every year, we partner closely with our host, a NACTO member city, to deliver the conference.

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Information and Contact

Information on previous conferences is available online at <https://nacto.org/program/designing-cities/>.

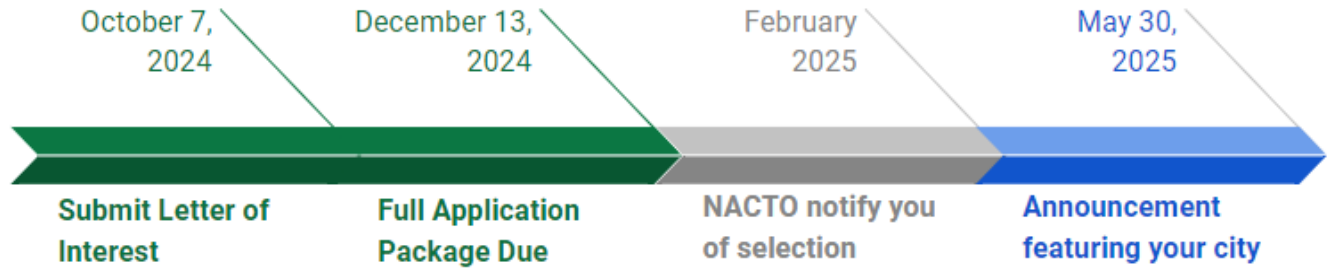
Please contact Hannah McCasland, Senior Events Manager, (hannah@nacto.org) with any questions. If you have any concerns about meeting the deadlines outlined below, reach out as soon as possible. In addition, [schedule a meeting with Hannah](#) if you have any questions.

Note: Should your city not be selected as a host in 2026, we will keep your application on file for consideration in future years. You may also let us know if you aren’t able to host in 2026 but would like to host in future years, and we will be sure to send you the RFP in future years.

We look forward to another great year for Designing Cities!

-The NACTO Conference Team

Overview of Becoming the 2026 Host City: Process & How to Apply



Solicit Interest & Application: September 2024 - December 2024

- **Step 1: Letter of Interest**

Submit a one page letter that confirms you have reviewed this request in detail. Highlight your commitments to the outlined responsibilities, and confirm that you will submit the full application to host the 2026 conference by December 13th, 2024. See page 6 for detailed instructions.

Due: End of day on Monday, October 7th, 2024.

- **Step 2: Application**

Submit a 4 page PDF application that outlines your staff and organizational capacity, your approach to Walkshops, and a shortlist of viable venues in your city. See page 7 for detailed instructions.

Due: End of day on Friday, December 13th, 2024.

Selection: January - February 2025

- Step 3: NACTO will identify the top host prospects. We might schedule a brief Zoom conversation if we have outstanding questions. NACTO may ask to arrange a staff visit to tour venues and meet in-person - early February 2025
- Step 4: NACTO staff will make a recommendation to the NACTO Board of the host city we think would be the best fit for the 2026 Designing Cities Conference - mid February 2025
- Step 5: We will notify the selected host of the Board's decision - mid to late February 2025

Preparation for announcement at Designing Cities: March - May 30th, 2025

- Step 6: We will work closely with the selected 2026 host to prepare for an announcement at our 2025 conference on May 30th, 2025.

Why Host the Designing Cities Conference?

Hosting NACTO's annual Designing Cities Conference puts your city and agency at the forefront of the conversation about safe, sustainable, equitable transportation. Hosting Designing Cities is both an opportunity and a major commitment for your agency that can bring your agency the following benefits:

Hosting NACTO puts your city in the national spotlight: The conference convenes transportation peers from around the country to your city to learn about what you're doing, and bring their own ideas. The conference also receives significant media attention. Leaders in transportation from around the country travel for the event.

Showcase your city: The primary work of the host city is to develop, plan, and execute ~55 Walkshops. Participants don't spend the conference in one hotel, they go on host-led tours of your city to see your infrastructure, innovations, and projects firsthand and hear about them from your staff and partners.

Benefits for agency staff: At the conference, the accomplishments of your staff are on full display for their peers around the country. We often hear that the host city staff feel like celebrities that week! The planning process helps increase awareness of the work happening across your departments. Staff at hosting cities say they got to work with people they had never worked with before.

Benefits for elected officials and city leaders: Bringing the NACTO conference to your city brings the momentum of an engaged and invested movement of 100 cities. The conference is a great opportunity to make strategic announcements, elevate your accomplishments, put your leaders in front of a large audience both during the conference and in the media, and otherwise creatively leverage the fact that 1,000 transportation practitioners and key leaders are in your city for nearly a week.

Hosting the conference brings the local ecosystem together on transportation issues: Planning the conference requires partnerships with other agencies, local companies and foundations, elected officials, non-profits, and more. The conference is a great opportunity to rally your city, region, and key partners around safe, sustainable, equitable transportation.

Past Designing Cities hosts: New York City, Phoenix, San Francisco, Austin, Seattle, Chicago, Los Angeles, Toronto, Boston, Cambridge and Somerville, Denver, Miami-Dade County, and Washington, DC (hosting the 2025 conference).

What past hosts have said:

"Hosting NACTO's Designing Cities Conference this past May, and for the first time ever in the southeastern U.S., placed Miami-Dade at the center of the mobility and transportation world. Collaboration and cooperation between like-minded people provided us with amazing insights. The best way to build our infrastructure is to learn from the industry's top thought leaders and experts. This allows us to improve our communities with new and diverse perspectives."

- Eulois Cleckley, Director and CEO, Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works

"Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities conference in Denver provided a unique opportunity to showcase the culture and character of our city and celebrate our staff and the work they're doing to improve safety and mobility. It was a chance to share our successes with transportation professionals from across the country, and highlight the innovative ways we're working to improve quality of life by expanding people's ability to move about in the many ways they choose."

- Adam Phipps, P.E., Executive Director, Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Role of the Designing Cities Host City

Hosting the Designing Cities Conference is no small task - it requires a major commitment of staff time and agency resources to make it a success and to reap the full benefits as host.

Hosting Designing Cities requires a 14-month commitment. Fourteen months out from the conference, you will begin working with NACTO to prepare for the announcement. Active planning for your conference begins 12 months out, with the work required picking up substantially 9 months out. It requires the involvement of dozens of staff at your agency and the support of your leadership. We are targeting early-mid May 2026 for the conference, avoiding dates too close to Mother’s Day or Memorial Day, but are happy to discuss the dates in partnership with the host.

Timeline, with the details to follow:



Host Planning Committee

- Collaborate with NACTO to define a structure for planning the conference and designate point people internally in your agency to manage each planning area. We recommend a structure of four subcommittees that map to your host responsibilities: Walkshops; Partnerships and Fundraising; Communications; and Welcoming (travel tips, local activations, unique-to-your-city activities).
- Designate a conference lead to oversee the host planning committee internally and work closely with the NACTO team, meeting every 1-2 weeks. This person should be senior and tenured enough to corral the right people and resources, and have the capacity in their role to project manage throughout the ~14 months of planning.

Walkshops

- Develop, plan, and execute ~55 Walkshops (35-40 unique Walkshops that happen on two days of the event, and ~15 longer Walkshops on the final day of the event). This often requires hundreds of staff and volunteers between ideation of what tours should happen, development of routes and planning the tour, and day-of leading and support.
- Identify a Walkshop Manager to project manage and lead the process. This can take up to 60% of their time.

- Supply, or facilitate the partnerships needed to attain: transit passes, bikes, and other devices needed for the Walkshops (in the past we have also had scooters and kayaks - it depends on your city!) Identify and secure a staging area for these devices and the launch of Walkshops near the venue.
- Involve community based organizations that shaped the projects you are showcasing

Communications, Marketing, and Branding

- Work closely with the NACTO team to leverage the momentum around the conference through media channels. Liaise with local press. Supply high quality transportation and livability themed photos of your city and quotes from leaders supporting the conference for our brochures and website
- Identify a Conference Communications Manager to lead this work. They should be able to dedicate around 1-4 hours per week to meeting with NACTO staff, taking on agreed upon tasks, and coordinating internally as needed.

Partnerships and Fundraising

- Collaborate closely with NACTO on securing sponsors and delivering benefits by identifying local prospects and leveraging the opportunity to secure Walkshop sponsors (coordinating with the Walkshop team to identify what tours might be a good fit to be sponsored by local consulting firms, engineering companies, micromobility companies, etc).
- Identify a Conference Partnerships Manager to lead this work. They should be able to dedicate around 1-4 hours per week to meeting with NACTO staff, taking on agreed upon tasks, and coordinating internally and externally as needed.

Welcoming Committee: Fun & Local Activations

- Plan Neighborhood Dinners to promote social connection and encourage participants to experience different neighborhoods. Identify activities, destinations, etc that make your city unique so that people can plan their trips. For example, past hosts have held a Ciclovía event and Open Streets event the week of the conference.
- Identify a Conference Welcoming Manager to lead this work. They should be able to dedicate around 1-2 hours per week to meeting with NACTO staff, taking on agreed upon tasks, and coordinating internally and externally as needed.
- Optional: Coordinate city maintenance and beautification to enhance the Walkshop experience and/or use the opportunity to move forward with projects such as quick builds, pop-ups, installing bike parking - get creative!

Member Program Committee:

- Designate one person on your team to be part of the conference's Member Program Committee: a group of 10 staff from NACTO member cities that each fully develop and plan a peer session at the conference. We anticipate that this commitment will take approximately 20-30 hours of time, over the course of November 2025-May 2026.

Attend the Conference

- Your staff should be supported with the time and funds to register for and attend the conference.

Proposal - Step 1: Letter of Interest

DUE: End of day on Monday, October 7th, 2024 via email to hannah@nacto.org and alana@nacto.org

Provide us with a 1-page letter of interest that lets us know you plan to apply and that you understand the level of commitment required and confirm that your city has capacity to host the conference in 2026. Please outline why your city should host NACTO's Designing Cities Conference in 2026. The letter of interest should come from the Director or Commissioner of Transportation of your city and should affirm the leadership and agency-wide commitment to taking on the role of hosting the conference.

In your letter, **please include a list of dates that would work well for your city and any helpful context.** We typically aim for May of each year, ideally a Tuesday-Friday, avoiding proximity to Mother's Day and Memorial Day. In the past, we've aligned with Ciclovía and Open Streets events and are always excited about such opportunities.

Questions to consider in your response include:

- What are the vital issues your city is addressing related to transportation?
- How does your agency's vision for transportation align with [NACTO's mission and values](#)?
 - How will you leverage this opportunity to highlight your staff and their commitment to fostering community, centering justice, striving for impact, and leading with imagination?
- How will hosting the conference help catalyze your city's work: what will change locally because NACTO came to this city?
- How can your city's work inspire NACTO's other members across North America: what will change nationally because NACTO went to this city?
- What commitments in regards to transportation do you have locally and regionally, and share with community partners, other agencies, and other governments?

Proposal - Step 2: Full Proposal Package

DUE: End of day on Friday, December 13th via email to hannah@nacto.org and alana@nacto.org

To apply, please send us a compiled PDF that replies to the following prompts. We also invite you to include any letters of support from local organizations, city government, or other partners that will support you in bringing the conference to your city.

Staff and Organizational Capacity (1 page)

Please outline your staff and organizational capacity to host a national conference, and outline your approach to the following roles and responsibilities of the host city.

NACTO and the host city collaborate across a number of core work areas for the conference: Walkshops, Communications and Marketing, Partnerships and Fundraising, and Welcoming participants through fun and local experiences/activations. The host city designates a conference planning lead and a planning committee. NACTO and the planning committee will meet once a month, with subcommittee meetings as needed. The Walkshop Manager will give 60% of their time for the 9 months out from the conference, while the other committee leads can likely accommodate the work into their day to day.

Questions to answer in more depth in your response:

- Please describe your approach to identifying this committee and confirm their capacity. Can you confirm that the group will be equipped to take on their roles? How will you ensure the committee is diverse in background and perspective?
- How would you ensure there is capacity for Walkshop planning and development?
- Who will you partner with, and how? Please consider local community based organizations and advocates, transit agencies, micro mobility operators, and more.
- Do you have any other ideas for how we can highlight community leaders in transportation, partnerships, and ensure we include diverse voices in your city?

Conference Venue, Hotel, Opening Reception, and Local Experience (list format, 1 page)

Nearly 1,000 people of all different backgrounds and identities will travel to your city for this conference, providing host cities the opportunity to showcase what makes them unique. In addition, it is essential that we provide our participants an experience in which they feel safe and welcomed. The conference venue and opening reception should be accessible via walking or public transportation.

Please provide a list of the following:

- 2-3 conference venues that meet the following requirements. Contact them to confirm the venues have availability for our group in May 2026 according to target dates. Cc hannah@nacto.org in case they have any questions.
 - Capacity for at least 1,000 people in the main ballroom space and throughout the conference area
 - At least 8 breakout rooms with capacity for ~ 150 each, after audio visual
 - Fully ADA compliant

- Full service (catering, furniture, rigging/lighting, accepts deliveries)
- Must be within a walkable, bike and transit-friendly neighborhood or downtown part of the host city that will be safe and welcoming for the full diversity of the NACTO community
- Must be in proximity to where you can secure the space for walkshop staging/departure and for bike parking
- Nice to have: venue commitment to sustainability and zero waste policies, outdoor space
- 2-3 hotels for a room block (if the conference venue itself is not a hotel)
 - within proximity to the venue
 - same as above in regards to neighborhood (it should share a neighborhood with the venue)
- 3-4 venues for our opening reception
 - capacity for at least 700
 - full service venue (catering and furniture are in-house)
 - ideally, a mix of indoor and outdoor space

Walkshops (2 pages)

Developing, planning, and executing ~55 Walkshops is one of the most rewarding and time-intensive tasks host cities undertake. Walkshops are the host city's stamp on the conference. The work of executing Walkshops will take the most time and effort of all host city responsibilities.

Executing successful Walkshops involves the efforts of hundreds of people: city staff that design and lead them, local partners that provide insight and join the tours to provide additional perspectives, volunteers that join to ensure the safety of participants, transit agencies that provide passes, micromobility operators that provide bikes (and maybe scooters!)

In your response, please confirm your ability to fulfill each of the following required responsibilities and outline any initial approaches/ideas for each item:

- Hire and fund, or designate an existing staff to be, a Walkshop manager. The role should be about 60% of the person's time for at least 9 months before the conference. The Walkshop manager will coordinate with city staff to finalize the logistics for each walkshop, including designing the tours, production of maps, and speaker selection.
- Commitment to involving local community based organizations on each Walkshop
- Provide transit passes for the duration of the conference or help facilitate the partnership required to secure transit passes. Provide local micromobility options that will be featured in walkshops (bikes and/or scooters).
- Provide any rentals needed, such as shuttles

- Secure space for Walkshop departure and micromobility staging near the conference venue through permitting or partnerships as needed. Please consider how walkable and bikeable the areas where we might host the conference are.

In addition to these logistic details, please include a description of how the city will select projects, plan tours, and lead tours and a list of some of the projects, partnerships, and programs that you would like to feature.

Questions to consider:

- Are there major transportation projects in the works, or recent accomplishments?
- What interesting viewpoints on the city core can you showcase, like a kayak tour?
- What are your exciting new achievements, like a light-rail line or protected bike lane?
- What innovative partnerships with community groups made a project possible?



DESIGNING CITIES

NASHVILLE



Staff and Organizational Capacity

The Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure (NDOT) is well-prepared to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in May 2027. Our approach to identifying the planning committee involves a thorough vetting process to ensure members are highly capable and equipped to take on their respective roles. The committee will consist of experienced professionals from various Metro departments and agencies like NDOT, Metro Planning Department, Metro Parks Department, and WeGo (MTA), alongside community-based organizations, including transportation planning, urban design, policy and community engagement, to ensure a holistic perspective. We are committed to forming a diverse committee by including members from different backgrounds, genders, ethnicities, and professional experiences, ensuring a range of perspectives and ideas.



To ensure adequate capacity for Workshop planning and development, we will leverage our existing, experienced staff, who have a proven track record in organizing large-scale events and urban planning initiatives. Additionally, we plan to allocate dedicated resources through NDOT's budget and personnel to the Walkshops to ensure they are well-organized and impactful. This includes partnering with local experts who can provide valuable insights into the unique characteristics and challenges of Nashville's neighborhoods.



Collaboration with local community-based organizations and advocates, transit agencies, micro-mobility operators, and other stakeholders is a cornerstone of our planning process. We will partner with groups such as Walk Bike Nashville, Civic Design Center, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, WeGo Public Transit, Greenways for Nashville, Urban Land Institute and various neighborhood associations to ensure broad community involvement. These partnerships will help us tap into local knowledge, foster community buy-in, and ensure the conference is grounded in the experiences and needs of Nashville residents.

To highlight community leaders in transportation and ensure we include diverse voices, we will incorporate local leaders, advocates, and innovators. We also plan to showcase successful local projects and initiatives that exemplify collaboration and innovation in urban transportation. Notable local projects and initiatives, such as the 12th Avenue South Complete and Green Street and the 31st Ave Vision Zero Safety Project, will be showcased. Through these efforts, we aim to create a platform where diverse voices are heard and celebrated, reinforcing the importance of inclusive, community-driven urban planning.



Conference Venue Hotel, Opening Reception, and Local Experience

Conference Venue:

Music City Center

- Location: Heart of Downtown
- Sustainability: LEED Gold Certified, energy conservation, green roof, water management, waste reduction (Figure 1)
- Capacity: Two ballrooms with capacities of 2,304-2,773; 26 breakout rooms with a capacity of around 150+ each; exhibit hall suitable for tabling



Figure 1.

Conference Hotels (within 1-2 blocks of Music City Center):

1. Omni Nashville Hotel
 - Location: Heart of Downtown Nashville
2. JW Marriott Nashville
 - Location: Heart of Downtown Nashville
3. Embassy Suites by Hilton
 - Location: Heart of Downtown Nashville

Opening Reception Venues:

1. Country Music Hall of Fame
 - a. Capacity: The Event Hall (600) and the Terrace (150) (Figure 2).
1. The Bridge Building Event Spaces
 - a. Capacity: Accommodates up to 1,200 guests
2. Amphitheater/Riverfront Park (Figure 3)
 - a. Capacity: 6,800



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

Walkshops

Developing, planning, and executing approximately 55 Walkshops for the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in Nashville is an exciting opportunity that our team is well-equipped to handle. Here's how we plan to fulfill each required responsibility and our initial approaches and ideas for this endeavor:

Walkshop Manager

We will designate an experienced staff member as the Walkshop manager, dedicating approximately 60% of their time for at least 9 months before the conference. This manager will be responsible for coordinating with city staff to finalize logistics, including designing tours, producing maps, and selecting speakers. The role requires strong organizational skills, detailed knowledge of Nashville's infrastructure and urban projects, and excellent communication abilities to liaise between various departments and stakeholders.

Commitment to Community Involvement

To ensure the Walkshops are inclusive and representative of our community, we will partner with local community-based organizations for each Walkshop. This includes groups like Walk Bike Nashville, Civic Design Center, neighborhood associations, and advocacy groups that reflect the diverse demographics and perspectives of our city. We aim to ensure every Walkshop is co-led by community representatives who can provide authentic insights and foster meaningful dialogue. This involvement will not only enrich the Walkshops but also strengthen community ties and promote local engagement in urban development discussions.

Providing Transit Passes and Micromobility Options

We will facilitate partnerships with WeGo Transit to provide transit passes for the duration of the conference. Additionally, we will feature local micromobility options, such as bikes and scooters, by collaborating with operators Lime, Spin, and Bird. These options will be integrated into the Walkshops to demonstrate their practical use in Nashville's urban mobility environment and to encourage sustainable transportation choices. We plan to offer guided rides and hands-on experiences with these micromobility options, highlighting their benefits and challenges in Nashville's urban setting.

Securing Space for Walkshop Departure and Micromobility Staging

We will secure space near the conference venue for Walkshop departure and micromobility staging through necessary permits or partnerships. We will ensure these areas are walkable and bikewable, considering the

convenience and safety of attendees. NDOT will work with local businesses to ensure these spaces are equipped with necessary amenities.

Project Selection and Tour Planning:

Our City boasts several significant transportation projects and accomplishments that will be highlighted during the Walkshops. Key projects include:

- **12th Avenue South Complete and Green Street:** A prime example of sustainable urban design
- **WeGo Neighborhood Transit Centers:** Enhancing public transit accessibility
- **Shelby Bottoms Greenway Connection:** Learn about the connection between the greenway and protected bike lanes.
- **31st Ave Vision Zero Safety Project:** Focused in improving road safety
- **Historic Germantown:** Nashville's first suburb and officially designated as a city arboretum.
- **TOD: WeGo Star:** Showcasing transit-oriented development projects along the Music City Star route, highlighting the integration of public transit with development.
- **Connect Downtown:** Showcasing our innovative approach to creating micromobility corrals in the Downtown core.

Interesting Viewpoints and Achievements:

We will showcase unique aspects of Nashville, such as kayak tour along the Cumberland River, offering a different perspective of the city core. Other exciting achievements include recent expansions in protected bike lanes and the exploration of BRT possibilities. We will also do a deep dive in the *Choose How You Move Transportation Improvement Program* as Nashville begins delivering on important transit and infrastructure projects.

Innovative Partnerships:

Our innovative partnerships with community groups, like the successful collaboration with Walk Bike Nashville for the Tour de Nashville and Open Streets event during the conference, will be featured to illustrate how community involvement drives our projects (Figure 8 and Figure 9). This event will highlight the role of community advocacy in shaping transportation policy and infrastructure, showcasing real-life examples of successful public engagement.

Rentals and Logistics:

We will arrange rentals for shuttles, ensuring seamless transportation during the Walkshops. Coordination with rental agencies will ensure all logistics are handled efficiently. All Walkshops will be within walking, cycling, or transit, with detailed schedules and routes provided to ensure punctuality and convenience.

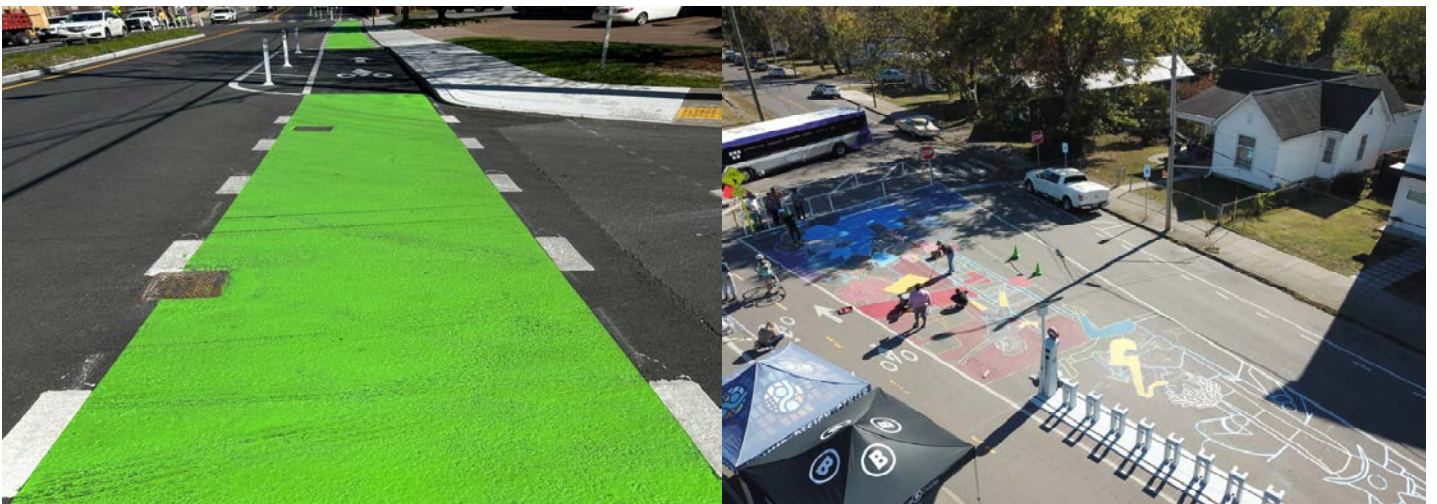
Additional Ideas to Highlight Community Leaders:

Panel Discussions: Featuring local community leaders in transportation and urban design. Nashville has great community leaders that are passionate around transportation and urban design. These include Mayor Freddie O’Connell and Vice Mayor Angie Henderson.

Keynote Speakers: Including prominent voices from diverse backgrounds.

Exhibition Spaces: The Music City Center has an exhibit hall with vast amount of space to show case demonstrations and innovation from the transportation and urban design sectors.

By carefully planning and executing these Walkshops, we aim to provide a comprehensive and engaging experience for NACTO conference attendees, highlighting Nashville’s commitment to innovative and sustainable urban transportation.



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



FREDDIE O'CONNELL
MAYOR

November 12, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities Conference. Nashville is an epicenter of vibrant culture, diverse neighborhoods, innovative urban development, and underlying everything is a commitment to sustainable transportation.

Transportation is considered a top priority based on recent resident surveys, and as Nashville's Mayor, I have made transportation my administration's top priority with the development of the Choose How You Move Transportation Improvement Program, recently approved by voters.

Nashville's central mid-South location, recent investments in transportation infrastructure, and burgeoning tech and innovation sector provide an ideal backdrop for the conference, ensuring attendees can witness firsthand why Nashville is a great place to live, work, and play.

Over the years, Nashville has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving urban mobility and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The city's forward-thinking transportation initiatives, such as the expansion of bike lanes, the implementation of a comprehensive transit system, and the creation of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, showcase our dedication to sustainable and inclusive urban design. These efforts align perfectly with NACTO's mission to build cities that are safe, sustainable, and dynamic.

Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in Nashville would not only highlight the city's achievements but also provide a platform for exchange and collaboration among professionals from across the country.

In closing, I strongly support Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. I am confident that our city will provide an inspiring and dynamic environment for this important event, fostering conversations and innovations in urban design. Thank you for considering Nashville's application.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Freddie O'Connell".

Mayor Freddie O'Connell



Metropolitan Council Office of the Vice Mayor

November 15, 2024

National Assoc of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing in support for Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. Nashville is a uniquely vibrant & hospitable city with a commitment to sustainable, multi-modal transportation demonstrated most notably in recent days by the resounding passage on November 5th of the "Choose How You Move" referendum for dedicated transportation funding.

Nashville's Metropolitan Council has for many years prioritized increased funding for multi-modal transportation and crafted and passed major supportive policies, such as enhanced sidewalk and street-tree requirements, speed limit reductions, and elimination of parking minimums and implementation of parking maximums in our urban zoning overlay. Metro Council Members provided formative input for the Transportation Improvement Program and voted in unanimous support to bring the program to the ballot.

With Nashville's booming growth and innovative approaches, there are numerous interesting contrasts and learning opportunities within our 526-square-miles. Recent public investments in multi-modal infrastructure, from protected bikeways to better bus stops and neighborhood transit centers, combined with an executive and legislative branch committed to addressing harmful systems with safe network building, mean that Nashville provides a diverse and interesting setting for conference participants to experience a major Mid-South city actively transitioning to a better place to live, work, walk, bike, and play.

Mayor O'Connell and I have been close followers and appreciative of NACTO's work for many years. Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities Conference would be an honor, and it would be our pleasure to help facilitate learning exchanges and collaborations among professionals from cities across the country.

I am very pleased to support Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference and confident that our city will provide a helpful, inspiring, and welcoming forum for this important event. Thank you for your consideration.

With appreciation,

Angie Emery Henderson
Vice Mayor & President of the Metropolitan Council



Delishia Porterfield

Metro Council At-Large

November 15, 2024

National Assoc of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

As Chair of the Metropolitan Council's Budget & Finance Committee, I am pleased to join the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chair Parker in lending my support to Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. My colleagues have provided compelling arguments, so I wanted to share just briefly from my perspective that after reading more about the work of NACTO, I agree that Nashville would be an excellent location for your members and attendees to learn more about multi-modal transportation.

As Budget Chair, I know that Nashville had been investing significantly in sustainable transportation and transforming our streets for the safety of all users across the city. It is a daunting task given the size of our city, but our recently secured dedicated funding through the Transportation Improvement Program will be a force multiplier for our routine capital investments. It is an exciting time in Nashville. Safer streets and increased access to opportunity for all Nashvillians are steadily becoming a reality.

Nashville is a fascinating city with significant musical and civil rights history. Our civil rights heroes often took to the streets walking, picketing, singing, and marching. We remain a thoughtful city that acknowledges our past and honors our future, in part by encouraging and funding safer walking, biking and bus riding. We hope you'll choose to join us!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delishia D. Porterfield".

Delishia Porterfield
Council Member at Large



Sean Parker

Metro Council Member

November 15, 2024

National Assoc of City Transportation Officials

120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor

New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities Conference. Nashville is home to many diverse and vibrant local communities and our hospitality sector is phenomenal. This is a great place for any conference, but I'd like to share why NACTO would be an especially good fit for our city.

While Nashville traditionally lagged behind our peer cities in transportation planning, we have made strides in recent years toward a safer and more accessible city. We've established a dedicated DOT, which now has an excellent, professional staff. In November of 2024, Nashville voters approved a sales tax surcharge with proceeds being dedicated to transit and transportation infrastructure. Our consolidated city-county structure means that we are tackling urban and suburban challenges simultaneously, I believe conference attendees from large cities and small towns would relate to the environment here. We welcome the opportunity to share and learn from other cities' experience.

Nashville's central mid-South location is convenient for visitors from across the United States. The Music City Convention Center is located near our world-famous entertainment district while other nearby neighborhoods such as East Nashville offer eclectic culture and cuisine.

Our city is full of passionate advocates, planning professionals, and elected officials putting in the work to build safe and accessible cities. NACTO has been a great resource to many of us. For myself, I have reviewed NACTO materials in preparation for numerous meetings to advocate regarding lane width, a bike lane, crosswalk, or other measure. These efforts align perfectly with NACTO's mission to build cities that are safe, sustainable, and dynamic.

Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in Nashville would not only highlight the city's achievements but also provide a platform for exchange and collaboration among professionals from across the country.

As Chair of Nashville's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I strongly support our city's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. I am confident that the city will provide an inspiring and dynamic backdrop. We would be honored to host this important event and take part in fostering conversations and innovations in urban design. Thank you for considering Nashville's application.

Sincerely,

Sean Parker

Council Member, District 5

Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee



A Service of Nashville MTA

430 Myatt Drive
Nashville, TN 37115
WeGoTransit.com
615-862-5969

Freddie O'Connell
Mayor

Gail Carr Williams
Chair

Janet Miller
Vice Chair

Jessica Dauphin
Member

Kathryn Hays Sasser
Member

Aron Thompson
Member

Stephen G. Bland
Chief Executive Officer

Debbie Frank
Deputy CEO
Growth and Development

Amanda Vandegrift
Deputy CEO
Finance and Administration

Andy Burke
Chief Operating Officer

Vince Malone
Chief of Staff & Administration

Nick Oldham
Chief Safety & Security Officer

November 12, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials

120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities Conference. Nashville is an epicenter of vibrant culture, diverse neighborhoods, innovative urban development, and underlying everything is a commitment to sustainable transportation.

Transportation is considered a top priority based on recent resident surveys and Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell has made transportation his administration's top priority with the development of the Choose How You Move Transportation Improvement Program, recently approved by voters.

Nashville's central mid-South location, recent investments in transportation infrastructure, and burgeoning tech and innovation sector provide an ideal backdrop for the conference, ensuring attendees can witness firsthand why Nashville is a great place to live, work, and play.

Over the years, Nashville has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving urban mobility and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The city's forward-thinking transportation initiatives, such as the expansion of bike lanes, the implementation of a comprehensive transit system, and creating pedestrian-friendly infrastructure showcase its dedication to sustainable and inclusive urban design. These efforts align perfectly with NACTO's mission to build cities that are safe, sustainable, and dynamic.

Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in Nashville would not only highlight the city's achievements but also provide a platform for exchange and collaboration among professionals from across the country.

In closing, I strongly support Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. I am confident that the city will provide an inspiring and dynamic environment for this important event, fostering conversations and innovations in urban design. Thank you for considering Nashville's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen G. Bland".

Stephen G. Bland,
Chief Executive Officer



November 12, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy A. Kempf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucy" being the most prominent.

Lucy Kempf, Executive Director



METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Centennial Park Office
Park Plaza at Oman Street
Nashville, TN 37201

(615) 862-8400
Fax (615) 862-8414
www.nashville.gov/parks

Monique Horton Odom, Director

November 8, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

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Sincerely,

Monique Horton Odom, Director
Metro Parks and Recreation

"It is the mission of Metro Parks and Recreation to sustainably and equitably provide everyone in Nashville with an inviting network of parks and greenways that offer health, wellness and quality of life through recreation, conservation and community"



FOR ADA ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT 615-862-8400

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



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Contact:
(615) 905-1851
info@thinktn.org

November 11, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities Conference. Nashville is an epicenter of vibrant culture, diverse neighborhoods, innovative urban development, and underlying everything is a commitment to sustainable transportation.

Transportation is considered a top priority based on recent resident surveys and Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell has made transportation his administration's top priority with the development of the Choose How You Move Transportation Improvement Program, recently approved by voters. As a nonpartisan organization dedicated to fostering informed and inclusive public policy, ThinkTennessee recognizes the crucial role that sustainable transportation plays in reducing household transportation costs, promoting community well-being, and supporting economic vitality and environmental health across our state.

Nashville's central mid-South location, recent investments in transportation infrastructure, and burgeoning tech and innovation sector provide an ideal backdrop for the conference, ensuring attendees can witness firsthand why Nashville is a great place to live, work, and play.

Over the years, Nashville has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving urban mobility and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The city's forward-thinking transportation initiatives, such as the expansion of bike lanes, the implementation of a comprehensive transit system, and creating pedestrian-friendly infrastructure showcase its dedication to sustainable and inclusive urban design. These efforts align perfectly with NACTO's mission to build cities that are safe, sustainable, and dynamic.

Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in Nashville would not only highlight the city's achievements but also provide a platform for exchange and collaboration among professionals from across the country.

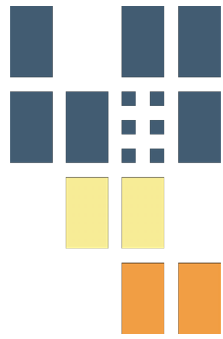
In closing, I strongly support Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. I am confident that the city will provide an inspiring and dynamic environment for this important event, fostering conversations and innovations in urban design. Thank you for considering Nashville's application.

Sincerely,

Erin Hafkenschiel
President, ThinkTennessee



Civic Design Center
138 2nd Ave N, Suite 106
Nashville, TN 37201
615.248.4280



November 6th, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials' (NACTO) Designing Cities Conference. With its vibrant culture, diverse neighborhoods, and deep commitment to sustainable, inclusive transportation, Nashville stands as an ideal city for this event.

Transportation is a top priority in Nashville, and under the leadership of Mayor Freddie O'Connell, the city has introduced the Choose How You Move initiative, recently approved by voters. This bold step forward highlights Nashville's dedication to creating safer, more accessible, and innovative transportation options. From expanded bike lanes and enhanced transit systems to pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, the city's efforts are well aligned with NACTO's mission to create sustainable urban transportation solutions.

Hosting the conference in Nashville would not only celebrate the city's recent achievements but also offer a dynamic platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among urban design professionals. The Civic Design Center strongly supports this application, as it directly aligns with our mission and Guiding Principles for Civic Design, such as fostering equitable and desirable transportation infrastructure and celebrating streets as essential public spaces that address neighborhood needs and encourage community interaction.

We are confident that Nashville will provide an inspiring and engaging environment for the Designing Cities Conference, enriching conversations and sparking innovations in urban design. Thank you for your consideration of Nashville's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Hoke'.

Eric Hoke
Design Director
Civic Design Center
eric@civicdesigncenter.org



November 6, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities Conference. Nashville is an epicenter of vibrant culture, diverse neighborhoods, innovative urban development, and underlying everything is a commitment to sustainable transportation.

Transportation is considered a top priority based on recent resident surveys and Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell has made transportation his administration's top priority with the development of the Choose How You Move Transportation Improvement Program, recently approved by voters. Spin was proud to support this referendum and we are very excited by the Mayor's visionary leadership on this issue.

Nashville's central mid-South location, recent investments in transportation infrastructure, and burgeoning tech and innovation sector provide an ideal backdrop for the conference, ensuring attendees can witness firsthand why Nashville is a great place to live, work, and play.

Over the years, Nashville has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving urban mobility and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The city's forward-thinking transportation initiatives, such as the expansion of bike lanes, the implementation of a comprehensive transit system, and creating pedestrian-friendly infrastructure showcase its dedication to sustainable and inclusive urban design. These efforts align perfectly with NACTO's mission to build cities that are safe, sustainable, and dynamic.

Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in Nashville would not only highlight the city's achievements but also provide a platform for exchange and collaboration among professionals from across the country.

In closing, there is perhaps no city in North America better positioned to make huge gains in multimodal infrastructure than Nashville. The recent voter approved Choose How You Move program combined with Mayor's visionary leadership on this issue presents a generational opportunity. Spin strongly supports Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. I am confident that the city will provide an inspiring and dynamic environment for this important event, fostering conversations and innovations in urban design. Thank you for considering Nashville's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lankford".

John Lankford
Senior Director, Partnerships & Policy
SPIN



November 10, 2024

National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities Conference. Nashville is an epicenter of vibrant culture, diverse neighborhoods, innovative urban development, and underlying everything is a commitment to sustainable transportation.

Transportation is considered a top priority based on recent resident surveys and Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell has made transportation his administration's top priority with the development of the Choose How You Move Transportation Improvement Program, recently approved by voters. Nashville's central mid-South location, recent investments in transportation infrastructure, and burgeoning tech and innovation sector provide an ideal backdrop for the conference, ensuring attendees can witness firsthand why Nashville is a great place to live, work, and play.

Over the years, Nashville has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving urban mobility and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The city's forward-thinking transportation initiatives, such as the expansion of bike lanes, the implementation of a comprehensive transit system, and creating pedestrian-friendly infrastructure showcase its dedication to sustainable and inclusive urban design.

These efforts align perfectly with NACTO's mission to build cities that are safe, sustainable, and dynamic. Hosting the NACTO Designing Cities Conference in Nashville would not only highlight the city's achievements but also provide a platform for exchange and collaboration among professionals from across the country.

In closing, I strongly support Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. I am confident that the city will provide an inspiring and dynamic environment for this important event, fostering conversations and innovations in urban design. Thank you for considering Nashville's application.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam R. Davis".

Adam R. Davis
Director of Partnerships, Policy, and Communications
Bird



National Association of City Transportation Officials
120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017

11/13/24

Dear NACTO Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Nashville's application to host the National Association of City Transportation Officials Designing Cities Conference. Lime is proud to be the single largest micromobility transportation provider in Nashville, and our experience in the City has shown us that Nashville is committed to alternative transportation. I believe that hosting this conference will provide an excellent opportunity for the city to showcase its transportation infrastructure and policies.

Lime is the global leader in micro mobility, operating in over 300 cities worldwide. Our program in Nashville launched in 2018, and since has grown to include a fleet of nearly 1,000 scooters and ebikes. Ridership in Nashville is strong year-round, a reflection of the efficacy of this mode in a City that centers sustainable, alternative transportation.

Lime is particularly excited about the development of the Choose How You Move Transportation Improvement Program, which was recently approved by voters. Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell has made transportation his administration's top priority and we are excited about the coming investments in cycling infrastructure. We know these investments have huge impacts on safety and ridership in micromobility programs. Lime recently partnered with the League of American Bicyclists to publish the results of a 5-year data review showing again how dedicated infrastructure for bike and scooter riders boost ridership and lead to significant reductions in incidents. We're excited for the future in Nashville.

As we have in other Lime cities that have hosted the Designing Cities Conference, Lime stands ready to support our partners at NACTO and NDOT by providing alternative transportation options for conference goers, hosting riding/scooting workshops, and highlighting best practices gleaned from our robust experience. In 2022, Lime was a key part of NACTO's workshops in Denver, providing our bikes and scooters for conference attendees and showcasing our unique service capabilities. We know how important these workshops are for the conference and we would be particularly well-situated to work with NDOT to help implement them.

In closing, I strongly support Nashville's application to host the NACTO Designing Cities Conference. I am confident that the city will provide an inspiring and dynamic environment for this important event, fostering conversations and innovations in urban design. Thank you for considering Nashville's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Williams".

Zach Williams
Senior Director, Government Relations for US South
Lime